

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS?

The ability to own property in the United States is a basic right that was afforded to us by our founding forefathers, as stipulated in the U.S. Constitution, under the Fifth Amendment: "...[no person shall] be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

However, today, owning property is becoming more of an exercise in stamina as we must observe a bevy of laws and regulations which often times restrict how we wish to responsibly use our own property. And, to compound government's overarching reach in our private lives, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Kelo v. City of New London*, upheld a local entity's effort to take away property from one private individual to hand it over to another private entity. As Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated in her dissenting opinion: "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random."

If owning and protecting your own property is important to you, it is imperative that you become more vigilant as to what your local elected leaders are doing with "eminent domain," and to become a more active voice in articulating the need to restrain "eminent domain" use.

So, where do you start? Below is a list of associations and offices that are committed

to protecting private property rights and stopping governmental abuse of eminent domain:

### **Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association**

921 11th Street, Suite 1201  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916)444-9950  
[www.hjta.org](http://www.hjta.org)

### **California Association to Protect Private Property**

1107 9th Street, Ste. 720  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916)444-8781  
[www.calpropertyrights.com](http://www.calpropertyrights.com)

### **Pacific Research Institute**

1414 K Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 448-1926  
[www.pacificresearch.org](http://www.pacificresearch.org)

### **Pacific Legal Foundation**

3900 Lennane Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, California 95834  
Phone: (916) 419-7111  
[www.pacificlegal.org](http://www.pacificlegal.org)

### **Castle Coalition/Institute of Justice**

901 N. Glebe Road  
Suite 900  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Phone: (703)682-9320  
[www.castlecoalition.org](http://www.castlecoalition.org)  
[www.ij.org](http://www.ij.org)

### **The Zumbrun Law Firm**

3800 Watt Avenue, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
Phone: (916)486-5900  
[www.zumbrunlaw.com](http://www.zumbrunlaw.com)

Once you have become educated on what is occurring locally, regionally, statewide and nationally, contact your appropriate elected official to let them know that you do not approve of the use of eminent domain authority – especially if there is no substantive "public use" benefit, and that you support legislation and resolutions which control eminent domain authority.

If you need additional assistance in identifying and obtaining the proper contact information for your elected official, please feel free to contact my office. It is important to note that there will always be more than just one person to contact on this issue. And, the more elected officials that you make aware of your desire, the more responsive your government should be. This is the form of democratic government that our forefathers had intended – having government directly serve and protect the people.

**"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action." -- George Washington**

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**Senator Sam Aanestad**  
**State Capitol**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**Phone: (916)651-4004**  
**<http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4/>**